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- SHAW/EXPIED
- Proposal for Discussion
at the forthcoming FIEND/VALUABLE Meeting

1. We are forwarding as a separate attachment a paper setting forth a proposal which we wish to discuss with Javelin at the forthcoming FIEND/VALUABLE meeting. We therefore request [] to pass the attachment directly to the VALUABLE representatives with whom they are in contact and explain that this paper represents FIEND thinking on one significant issue which we wish to bring up at the meeting. The purpose of presenting this paper to VALUABLE at this time is to give them an opportunity to digest our point of view and prepare their own in time for the meeting.

2. We ask that [] emphasize to VALUABLE that the attachment is in no sense an agenda for the meeting, since the actual agenda will cover a large number of topics not touched on in the paper. Our understanding is that the agenda for the October meeting is approximately the same as that proposed last May when we anticipated a meeting with VALUABLE in Washington.

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Chief, SE

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1 w/attach u.s.c. (1)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: <i>R1/DO</i>				NO. <i>attach OEW 2018</i>	
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
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Attachment to COMINT-2016

FIREO Proposal for Discussion at the Next FIREO/VALUABLE Meeting:

1. At the forthcoming FIREO/VALUABLE meeting we wish to discuss a proposal which involves significant changes in the political approach to the National Committee for Free Albania. We, therefore, bring our point of view to the attention of VALUABLE in advance of the meeting to afford VALUABLE officers sufficient time to examine our proposal.
2. It has long been the FIREO position that the NCPA was too narrowly based and that its effectiveness could be increased if representation were given to the two main parties not now recognized, viz. NDKA Kombeza Independent; and the Balli Kombeza Organization. As VALUABLE is aware, two attempts to broaden the Committee in this way have failed, largely because of the refusal of the extreme wing of the Agrarian Party to accept either of the two other groups in any form.
3. FIREO finds the situation increasingly prejudicial to the future of our joint enterprise. We believe that the present narrow base of the Committee reduces its influence inside Albania; by refusing to bring in either the NDI or the BKO, the Committee deprives itself of the indigenous support enjoyed by these two groups. Secondly, we feel that the present narrow base of the Committee reduces its weight within the exile movement, where the two other groups still have followers and influence. According to information received from several sources, the stature of the Committee is declining because of its continued refusal to broaden its political appeal. This situation is worsened by quarrels among NCPA parties, with the result that the Executive Committee of NCPA is dismissed more and more frequently by non-members as a small group of quarreling politicians whose chief interest is to see that the assistance received from their sponsors is not spread among too many recipients and whose secondary interest is to make certain that no member of the Committee receives an undue share of this assistance.
4. The chief objection of the radical wing of the Agrarian Party to the broadening of the Committee continues to be the charge that the other parties proposed for Committee membership are tainted by association with the Italians, beginning with the period of the Italian occupation of Albania and continuing to the present. It is questionable whether this argument ever had much validity in view of the fact that various prominent members of the Agrarian Party are also tainted with collaboration of one kind or another. The charge grows less significant as time goes on. Our sources continue to report that anti-Communists inside Albania feel urgently that all other considerations should take second place to the need for unity among the exile groups. This position is one with which we agree and which we feel should be pressed on NCPA until it is accepted.

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5. For these reasons, we propose that another attempt at the broadening of the NCFA be undertaken by FIEND and VALUABLE in concert, and that this time it be pushed through to conclusion. In the past it has been agreed that such broadening attempts should be made, but with the proviso that if members of NCFA remained unpersuaded the matter should be dropped. FIEND feels now, however, that a more forceful approach is necessary. It is our hope that VALUABLE will agree to present a common proposal to the NCFA stating that our two services are determined to broaden the Committee at this time and that if this attempt fails as the others have before it both FIEND and VALUABLE will be forced to reconsider their position. We make this proposal knowing quite well that it may lead to serious difficulties with the radical wing of the Agrarian Party. We have reason to believe, however, that even if this wing prefers to withdraw from the NCFA rather than accept the groups outside the Committee, there are important elements, led by Kostin Dosti, which can be persuaded to remain. It is our considered view that NCFA without the radical wing of the Agrarian Party but including the RCI and RSO will be stronger and have greater political attraction than the existing Committee.

It also remains possible that the Agrarian Party as a whole can be persuaded to stay. Among the means of persuasion, we suggest plainly informing the radical leaders that if they refuse to accept the broadening of the Committee they will be expelled, that the support of FIEND and VALUABLE which has hitherto protected them from the Italian and Greek police will be removed, that they can expect to be treated critically in the propaganda organs of the NCFA as placing partisan interests ahead of the cause of the Albanian liberation, that all subsidies and payments will be withdrawn, and that all support paid to their followers in the Guard Company and in other organs of the NCFA will cease.

6. FIEND has come to this decision after long consideration and is convinced that it is the only way to avoid waste of the substantial amounts of money which we continue to expend on the Albanian emigration. In these days when funds spent by the U.S. on this type of activity are carefully scrutinized, it is increasingly difficult to justify the expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars a year for support of a committee which refuses to take full advantage of its opportunities and which, out of narrow political motives, insists on limiting its own effectiveness.

7. An allied suggestion which we put forward tentatively as an item for VALUABLE consideration but not necessarily requiring a decision at the forthcoming meeting, concerns the question of relations between the NCFA and the Yugoslav-dominated League of Albanian Refugees. We have received many reports, as no doubt has VALUABLE, indicating that the Yugoslavs are in direct contact with some members of the National Committee and have attempted to come into direct contact with others. The most recent case of this kind involved a letter purportedly from Mil Skollli to Abne Kupi proposing "discussions" between Kupi and unnamed representatives of the Prirode League. In connection with these Yugoslav feelers it has occurred to us, as it no doubt has to VALUABLE, that a recognized and

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regular liaison relationship between the two committees might work to the benefit of both. Such a liaison would bring the relation between these committees out into the open, where it would be susceptible to closer control by FINND/VALUABLE. Most important is the fact that the activities, propaganda statements, requests, demands, etc., of the Prišten League might offer a clue to the Yugoslav government attitudes and intentions toward Albania. If the proposed liaison could be effected it should reduce the flood of rumors concerning Yugoslav contacts with NCFA members which have been such a fruitful source of harmful gossip for the past six to eight months. It would also have the advantage of strengthening the anti-Yugoslav forces by bringing about some cooperation (however limited) between the two most important exile groups.

8. Unfortunately, the state of Italo-Yugoslav relations is a serious hindrance to any action at this time to bring about a public reapprochement between the two committees. Almost certainly, the Italians would resent any overt connection between NCFA and the Prišten League and would be unlikely to accept such an arrangement without serious protest. We therefore propose no action at this time but merely place the matter before VALUABLE as indication of our thinking. We believe that before any action could be taken along these lines the broadening of the committee would have to be successfully completed and there would have to be an appreciable improvement in Italo-Yugoslav relations.

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